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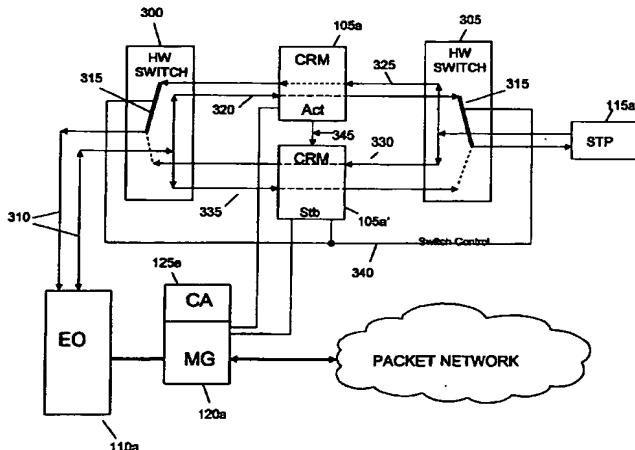
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONVERGING CIRCUIT SWITCHED AND PACKED SWITCHED COMMUNICATIONS



(57) Abstract: A method and system are provided for converging time division multiplexing (TDM) communication networks and packet based networks. Signaling may be monitored between TDM network elements by a Convergence Resource Manager (CRM) to identify calls that may be re-directed over a packet network to an end node with another associated CRM; the re-directed call bypassing much of the TDM network. Installation of a CRM typically does not require any configuration changes to the TDM network such as point codes. A self learning CRM may also be provided so that a routing database may be automatically built. An originating SS7 message may be modified by a self learning CRM to add a Tag which identifies the originating node. As the modified message traverses the SS7 network, any other self learning CRMs in the network report to the originating self learning CRM that the message has been seen. The last reporting self learning CRM is then associated with the dialed number for future routing of originating calls over the packet network, directly to the last reporting self learning CRM and end network node, thus flattening the TDM network.

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